



As an NCATE accredited College of Education (COE) at Northern Arizona University (NAU) and leader in teacher preparation programs, we recognize the responsibility to prepare teachers to meet the needs of 21st century schools. The Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) is a critical element of this current preparation and complements our goal articulated by the NCATE Blue Ribbon Panel report which states:

To prepare effective teachers for 21st century classrooms, teacher education must shift away from a norm which emphasizes academic preparation and course work loosely linked to school-based experiences. Rather, it must move to programs that are fully grounded in clinical practice and interwoven with academic content and professional courses. (NCATE, 2010, para. 1)

We are cognizant that all students in the P-20 system deserve our best. Therefore, careful preparation of preservice teachers is needed so that new teachers will be able to meet students where they are in order to maximize the potential and achievement of P-20 students. Understanding of the CCSS and the implementation and integration of these standards is necessary in order to support Arizona's greatest resource, its children.

The COE at NAU has already been engaged in implementation of the CCSSI in numerous ways including:

- Initial Common Core State Standards Initiative Summit held in Fall 2012 for students, faculty at NAU and in surrounding school districts, early childhood professionals, and community members
- Syllabi alignment with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) Model Core Teaching Standards across NAU COE programs
- Establishment of Common Core Task Force in COE
- Collaboration with the Arizona K-12 Center on both InTASC and the CCSSI

Realizing the need for further growth and development of the CCSSI, current efforts with plans to continue or begin in fall semester 2013 include:

- Collaboration and co-planning with school districts across the state to substantively address the CCSSI and InTASC standards in relation to student needs in school districts, as well as current teacher evaluation procedures, and to provide the practicum experiences preservice teachers need to be prepared to teach in 21st century, Arizona schools
- Collaboration with the Arizona K-12 Center, ADE, and the Arizona Regional Education Service and Support Centers to provide exceptional understanding of the CCSSI to our students, faculty, practicing teachers, and community members
- CCSSI research from NAU's COE to include self-assessment of students and faculty regarding CCSSI and also a statewide survey regarding the CCSSI professional development needs of practicing teachers and school administrators
- Program review including course sequences, practicum experiences, syllabi, data analyses in relation to CCSSI, InTASC, and NCATE Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations
- Fall semester 2013 Common Core Summit at NAU to include students, faculty, teachers across the state, and community members
- The possible establishment of an online CCSSI resource portal for students, faculty and community use
- The possible establishment of an online publishing portal (peer-reviewed) for student, faculty, teacher, community authors to address the CCSSI, lesson planning with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), and other pertinent CCSS-related materials
- PARCC assessment information and updates
- Education in the use of various rubrics and materials for implementation of the CCSS in lesson planning and execution